MR. CHAIRMAN: His question was very simple. He wants to know whether you will look into raising their salaries and perks.

DR. RAJA RAMANNA: That was the first part of my answer. The second part was, he asked whether good people were coming.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Having been a pilot himself he thinks that if you increase the salary and perks, you will get better people. Would you look into that?

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: The Pakistani pilots have to be paid more because the chances of dying are more for them.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: It is quite true that the Indian pilots are known for their efficiency and expertise, but at the same time it is also true that the rate of accidents in Air Force has gone up to a large extent because of human failure. This also cannot be negatived. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what he would like to do to improve the efficiency of the pilots in view of the accidents and in view of the attributed cause being human failure.

DR. RAJA RAMANNA: This is an important question because people have the impression that the accident rate in the Air Force has increased. This is not statistically proved. I have the statistics elsewhere and over the years there has been not an increase but a decrease.

Now the question of efficiency is absolutely the prime consideration whether there have been accidents or not. This the Air Force is fully aware of and taking steps all the time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over. Papers to be laid.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Per capita income of SC/ST in Andhra Pradesh

*104. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of the per capita income of the persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what is the comparison of their per capita income with that of the general categories; and

(d) whether any initiative has been taken by Government to increase the per capita income of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in that State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN): (a) No, Sir. Per capita income is not estimated at the national level separately for different social groups.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Apart from poverty alleviation programmes, Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes and Tribal Sub Plans are being implemented to raise the level of income and consumption of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. It has also been agreed to provide additional Central assistance of Rs. 65 crores over a period of three years for the 'Contingency Plan' prepared by the State Government for the accelarated development of tribal areas affected by the extremist activities, out of which a provision of Rs. 23 crores has been made for the current year.